

# The Abbeville Press and Banner.

BY HUGH WILSON.

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## Extracts from Jonathan and his Content.

BY MAX O'RELL.

The population of America is sixty millions—mostly colonists.

If the earth is small, America is large, and the Americans are immense!

From east to west, America stretches over a breadth of more than 3,000 miles. Here it is well to put some readers on their guard, in case an American should one day put to them one of his favorite questions: "Where is the center of America?" I myself imagined that, starting from New York and pushing westward, one would reach the extremity of America on arriving at San Francisco. Not so, and here Jonathan has you. He knows you are going to answer wrongly, and if you want to please him, you must let yourself be caught in this little trap, because it will give him such satisfaction to put you right. At San Francisco, it appears you are not quite half way, and the center of America is really in the Pacific ocean. Jonathan more than doubled the width of his continent in 1867, when for the sum of \$7,000,000 he purchased Alaska of the Russians.

The Englishman, on his side, has no antipathy whatever to the Americans. For that matter the Englishman has no antipathy for any one. He despises, but he does not hate, a fact which is irritating to the last degree to the objects of his attention. When a man feels that he has some worth, he likes to be loved or hated; to be treated with indifference is galling. John Bull looks on the American as a parvenu, and smiles with incredulity when you say that American society is not only brilliant and witty, but quite as polished as the best European society.

It is this haughty disdain which exasperates Americans.

Jonathan has forgotten that the English were once his oppressors; he forgives them for the war of 1812; without forgetting it, he forgives them for having, during the civil war, sided with the slave owners; but he cannot forgive an Englishman for coming to his dinner table in a tweed suit.

I was chatting one day with an American about the famous Col. Robert Ingersoll.

"He is your greatest orator, I am told," I said.

"Yes," he replied, "Ingersoll can fill the Metropolitan opera house any day, and have five thousand dollars in the house."

Certainly that is a curious way to speak of a great orator, a great writer and a great thinker.

The American may be eccentric, or what you will, but he is never monotonous.

## The Slaughter of Birds.

Unless prompt measures are taken to put a stop to the useless slaughter of the little birds, simply for the purpose of ornamenting the bonnets and hats of the ladies, the luxury will be a dear one. Nearly \$1,000,000,000 is lost every year from the depredations of insects, and without the aid and assistance of the birds we will be powerless to protect ourselves. Nor can the matter be postponed. The birds are being reduced in numbers, and the insects are increasing. Every season's delay renders the extermination of the insects more difficult, as the birds will require several years to regain their numbers, while the insects will be more strongly entrenched. It seems but a very insignificant matter to kill a bird, and the enormity of the destruction is not comprehended, because they are slaughtered here and there, but over 40,000 are annually killed in the neighborhood of Cape Cod. The statement is made that dealers in New York handle 100,000 bird skins a year, and it is time the cruel business be stopped. If "gentle woman" herself will allow her finer feelings to prompt her, the murderous practice will cease. It is cruel, injurious, and entirely at variance with refined taste. Leaving the little birds to take their chances with owls, hawks, and other enemies, is subjecting them to risks enough, but when the trap, snare and shot-gun is used against them, they will be fortunate if they avoid extermination.

A German critic thus distinguishes between ridicule, wit, irony and humor: "Ridicule is the wit of a stupid or vulgar person; wit the ridicule of a superior intellect or a man of the world; irony the wit of a thinker, and humor the irony of a poet. Ridicule is like a blow with the fist, wit like the prick of a needle, irony like the sting of a thorn, and humor the plaster which heals all these wounds."

A SUCCESSFUL MAN.—If I were asked to define the meaning of a successful man, I should say a man who has made a happy home for his wife and children. No matter what he has not done in the way of achieving wealth or honors, if he has done that he is a grand success. If he has not done that, and it is his own fault, though he be the highest in the land, he is a most pitiable failure.

## Will Sunday be Destroyed?

The *Times-Star*, of this city, had an article recently under the title, "The No-Sunday Era." The title is ominous, and the facts which suggested it are not encouraging. A large dry-goods store "over the Rhine" was open all day the Sunday before. Certain jewelry stores were open at the same time. There were hints that other business houses would follow this pernicious example, because business rivalry would compel them to do it, and thus the *Times-Star* saw in the opening of this over-the-Rhine store "the beginning of the end, unless a successful effort is made to check the growing disposition to ignore the laws in regard to an observance of Sunday." If these were the only facts bearing upon the case, they would hardly justify the sweeping inferences of the *Times-Star*; but there are so many more, and there are so few of them, that they attract almost no attention at all in the vast array of forces which are waging war against the Lord's day. The battle in which the *Times-Star* now so gallantly draws the sword has been raging for a long time. The beginning of the end was not over the Rhine three weeks ago. If the end comes—which God forbid—the beginning of it was centuries ago. We wish we could think that the enemies of Sunday are making no progress in their assaults on the holy day, and that there is no cause for alarm except the few facts which Cincinnati has recently furnished; but no such comfort is possible, for the enemies of the Lord's day swarm on all sides, and are as numerous and persistent as they are numerous. The appeal of the *Times-Star* is not to the Christian people of the country so much as to the laboring people, whose Sunday rights are in danger from the greed of their employers. Little by little the demand for seven days of labor in the week increases. The railroad idea is likely to become dominant, and men who will not work on Sunday must give place to others whose consciences are less sensitive. It is not simply Sunday as a religious institution that is in danger, but Sunday as one of the sacred rights of the laborer. He has right to a day of rest, and it is a sin against him to compel him to drag his weary feet through seven days of weekly toil. This point does not command large attention now, but the time will come when some men who are now waging war against Sunday will curse the fatal day when they did it, and thus forged chains for their own limbs. Laboring people have an interest in the Lord's day which millions of them do not now appreciate; but as time passes they will see the case as it is, and the day will have new defenders. Sunday is not doomed to destruction.

## Happy Children.

"I know now," said a lady not long ago, "that my mother loved me tenderly; but during all my childhood I doubted it. If I were really dear to her, I queried, why did she never tell me so? Why did she never caress me and assure me of her love? She thought her actions spoke loudly enough without words, and so they did, but I could not comprehend the language she spoke. I could not understand them as I can now, and how I longed to hear her call me loving names and to have her lap me in the sweet embrace of a mother's love."

Many a little heart aches as did this lady's for the spontaneous utterances of maternal affection. These can make it happier than gifts of beads, or dolls, or fine clothes, or costly toys. As house-plants cannot flourish without sunshine, so children cannot thrive and be happy without love.

Children who grow up in this constant atmosphere of love are rarely mischievous, never vicious. The mightiest of all agencies to lead the young in paths of virtue is in the hands of parents, and to command this agency they need but give expression to the natural overflow of their hearts. Children to be happy need encouragement and praise. Let us give to these darlings of our hearts the sunniest, warmest spot in the household, and we shall see them grow up in symmetry to be fair women and brave men.

PUT IT IN WRITING.—Verbal contracts occasion more trouble, dispute and litigation than any other business transactions. The wise merchant, taught by experience, will endeavor to have a writing executed by the party to be charged in every case of importance arising in his business. This is especially necessary of guarantees. A man enters your office whom you know to be perfectly responsible. He tells you to sell Brown a thousand dollars' worth of goods. Brown is all right; he will answer for that, etc. Make him sign a memorandum.

A customer gives you a large order for future and installment deliveries. Make him sign it in writing. You engage a salesman for a year, or for a month, or for a trial trip. Have it all put down in writing and signed. You save taking your chances before a jury, who nine times out of ten prove uncertain and too sympathetic with that party whom they consider is the "under dog." It is only a little trouble at the time, but it usually saves a heap of trouble in the future.

## A Preacher Eating His Horse.

There was no church in Van Buren. A Methodist itinerant was sent there. One house was open to him—the tavern—and to that he went and put up. He interviewed mine host. "What is the chance for a Methodist preacher here?" The reply was that it was the same as for any other man, if he had money. "But if I have no money?" The chances were bad enough. "What do you charge for board?" said the circuit-rider. The rates were given. "Look at my horse," said he; "what do you think he is worth?" The animal, doubtless, was good minding, for our preachers are not novices about horses, and no men have better use for them. That preliminary settled, the preacher proceeded in a very straightforward style with the host. "Sir, turn my horse into your stable, and when you think I have eat up the value of him, let me know, and I will either change my quarters or provide other means of paying my bill." He went to work—laid siege to the place in the name of the Lord—and before the horse was eat up the town capitulated. The people presented him his horse, all charges paid, and his own bill beside; "fitted out 'the parson' in a new suit of clothes, and from that day Christianity has had a firm footing in Van Buren.

THE BELL OF JUSTICE.—In one of the old cities of Italy, the king caused a bell to be hung in a tower in one of the public squares, and called it the "bell of justice," and commanded that any one who had been wronged should go and ring the bell, and so call the magistrate of the city, and ask and receive justice. When, in the course of time, the lower end of the bell rope rotted away; a wild vine was tied to it to lengthen it; and one day an old and starving horse that had been abandoned by its owner and turned out to die, wandered into the tower, and, in trying to eat the vine, rang the bell. The magistrate of the city, coming to see who had rung the bell, found this old and starving horse; and he caused the owner of the horse, in whose service he had toiled and been worn out, to be summoned before him, and decreed that, as this poor horse had rung the bell of justice, he should have justice, and that during the remainder of his life his owner should provide for him proper food and drink and stable.

A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SEXTONS.—Our sextons ought to have a seminary. They occupy a very important place in the church. In New York their names are on the tablets, whether the pastor's is or not. They can freeze out an audience, roast it out, blow it out with draughts, or poison it out. Some close up the windows and keep the Sunday atmosphere as carefully as if it was sanctified and pure air satanic. Besides, they like to economize on dust brushes and muscled. We have been in churches which smelled like a cemetery, and people wondered why they had headaches, or grew so drowsy, while the preacher wondered that he was able to get through such a mephitic and poisoned atmosphere. Magnify the office of the doorkeeper. David wanted the position, though he was king. Teach him how to do his part so that God's house shall be the purest, the cheeriest and the most healthful place in the world.

BAD TEMPER.—According to the *Boston Journal of Health*: "The effect upon the bodily health, of the mind harassed by bitterness and anger, is to propagate derangements and infirmities. The appetite lessens, digestion is impaired, and then follow other functional disorders. The nervous system suffers from continual mental irritability and hysteria headache and other painful affections often owe their origin to this prejudicial influence. As has been said, 'An irritable and fractious temper, whether due to an active temperament or other causes, becomes, necessarily, the instrument of its own punishment. And it furthermore poisons the happiness of all within the circle of its influence. To so many occasions of annoyance, to so many petty vexations are we all, even the most fortunate of us, exposed, that the happiness of the naturally irritable man must be continually encountering obstacles, and his health consequently be ever liable to injury.'"

Without unremitting labor, success in life, whatever our occupation, is impossible. A fortune is not made without toil, and money unearned comes to few. The habitual loafer never brings anything to pass. The young men whom you see lounging about waiting for the weather to change before they go to work break down before they begin—get stuck before they start. Ability and willingness to labor are the two great conditions of success. It is useless to work an electrical machine in a vacuum, but the air may be full of electricity, and still you can draw no spark until you turn the machine. The beautiful statue may exist in the artist's brain, and it may also be said in a certain sense to exist in the marble block that stands before him, but he must bring both his brains and his hands to bear upon the marble, and work hard and long, to produce any satisfactory practical result.

## Ruskin's Idea of a Wife.

Ruskin, in speaking of the wife, says: "A judicious wife is always nipping off from her husband's moral nature little twigs that are growing in the wrong direction. She keeps him in shape by pruning. If you say anything silly, she will affectionately style you so. If you declare that you will do some absurd thing, she will find some way of preventing you from doing it. And by far the chief part of all common sense there is in the world belongs unquestionably to women. The wisest things a man commonly does are those which his wife counsels him to do. A wife is a grand wielder of the moral pruning knife. If Johnson's wife had lived there would have been no hoarding up of orange peel, no touching all the posts in walking along the street, no eating and drinking with disgusting voracity. If Oliver Goldsmith had been married he never would have worn that memorable and ridiculous coat. Whenever you find a man whom you know little about oddly dressed, talking absurdly, or exhibiting eccentricity of manner, you may be sure that he is not a married man; for the corners are rounded off, the little shoots pared away in married men. Wives have much more sense than their husbands. The wife's advice is like the ballast that keeps the ship steady."

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.—We often say that we would be unwilling to exchange our hope in Christ for anything the world can possibly offer. It is not always that we measure the full meaning of this affirmation. It might be found that, were we called to a severe test of our allegiance, our avowal is not much better than Peter's, who so speedily denied his Lord. We may mean well at the time, but, like him, we fail to understand our own weakness, and how important is that faith which is not in word only. When, after having made such a bold profession, one goes forth into life to forget his Master and his Christian obligations for service, manifestly there is room to doubt his perfect sincerity. Better far that he had never spoken thus at all, than that he should misrepresent religion before others. It is in this way that genuine righteousness is often brought into disrepute. Through such inconsistencies many are led to reject Christianity altogether.

A NEW CHEAP LIGHT IN LONDON.—London is exercised over a new and cheap light. A tank is placed in the roof of a dwelling and filled with oil. Contraction is made with the gas pipes, and the burner is capable of being turned on or off. The light is white, soft and agreeable, and as brilliant as that supplied by electricity. The cost is about one-third that of gas. An exhibition was recently given in the presence of the representatives of the press. The secret of the new process is a machine, which is wound up like clockwork and which separates the hydrogen from the oxygen of the atmosphere, and causes the latter to mix with oil and give forth the excellent light, which is the admiration of all beholders.

Women find a sea of trouble in their housekeeping. Some one says they often put as much worry and anxiety into a loaf of bread, a pie, a cake, into the weekly washing and ironing as should suffice for much weightier matters. Suppose these things go wrong to-day, the to-morrows are coming in which to try again, and the thing is not worth clouding your own spirit and those around you, injuring yourself and them physically—for the mind affects the body—and for such a trifle. When a thing is beyond repair, waste no useless regrets over it and do no idle fretting. Strive for that serenity of spirit that will enable you to make the best of all things. That means contentment in its best sense.

It is a strange thing, considering the demands of God, and the manner of life that most people follow, what crowds of them go to heaven when they die. Nearly everybody goes to heaven—so somebody tells us when people die. There may be some mistake about this—O how many! The priest, we are told, who announced the death of that reprobate, Louis XV, put it as follows: "Louis the beloved sleeps in the Lord." Carlyle's comment on this was: "If such a mass of laziness and lust sleeps in the Lord, who, think you, sleeps elsewhere?"

The Church would make a long advance if she could at once settle in her mind the conviction that she is not patronizingly assisting the forlorn band of missionary pensioners, that she is not aiding Secretaries or Boards, that she is not compassionate nations as such inferior races of men, but that she is doing the work of which she is called by her Redeemer, and to which, in every syllable of her creed, and every utterance of her vows, she is pledged.

One ounce of arresting somebody for carrying concealed weapons before he kills somebody else is worth a pound of murder-trial.

A NEW USE FOR LEMONS.—"If you ever use lemons," remarked our housewife to a lady friend, and have a portion of one left over, be sure you do not throw it away. I am never without them in the house, as I always use them for flavoring; but of what use are the pieces?"

"Just this. The next time you think you are done with a lemon just dip it in salt and rub your copper kettle or stewpan with it. You will be surprised to find what a brilliant surface you will obtain if you rub the article instantly with a dry, soft cloth. You can polish all brass work by the same means; every stain disappears as if by magic. A mouldy lemon put into a dirty saucepan half full of water boiled for half an hour cleanses the utensil amazingly and removes any odor, such as fish or onions. Try it and see if I am not right."

THE WAY THE MONEY GOES.—Towels are used for holders. Napkins are used as dish-wipers. Soap is left to soak in water. Clothes are whipped to pieces in the wind. Hams and cheese mould and get full of "skippers." Tea, coffee and spices stand open and lose their strength. Coal is wasted. Vegetables are thrown away that would warm over nicely. Scrubbing brushes are left to warp in water. Bits of meat are thrown away that would make a good soup or hash. A pint, more or less, of dough is left sticking to the bread pan. The cork is left out of the molasses jug and flies take possession. The extravagant use of butter, sugar and eggs in cookery. Pails are allowed to run dry and fall apart. Bread is wasted. Tea and coffee made too strong. Careless breakage of dishes.

FEVER AND AGUE.—There are some situations where fever and ague prevails every season, and this is the case in the vicinity of creeks and swamps. An acquaintance of ours, who has resided for several years on one of these creeks, never has had a single case of fever and ague in his family, while all his neighbors have been more or less affected with it every season. He attributes his immunity from this troublesome disease to the use of a good fire in his house every chilly and damp night in summer and fall. When the Indians travel at night or early in the morning in swampy regions, they cover their nose and mouth with some part of their garments to warm the air which they inhale, and this they say prevents chills and fevers.

PEACH CUSTARD.—Soak one-half cupful of gelatine with a cup of sugar and a dozen halves of peaches for one hour, then pour on a cup of boiling water and pass all through a strainer. Be sure to stir it all over the fire until the gelatine is dissolved. Set it aside to cool, and when ready to congeal have ready a cup of rich cream; whip the cream until light, add a pinch of soda, and stir it into the gelatine quickly, one spoonful at a time. Turn into a mold wet with cold water, and set in a cool place to harden.

WHEAT BRAN FOR COWS.—Wheat bran is excellent to make cows give a mass of milk, but for the butter maker it does not furnish the requisite material. The cream from bran-fed milk rises slowly and is hard to churn. When the butter is made it will be pale rather than the golden yellow from the cream of cows fed on corn meal. Bran should be fed to young, growing stock rather than to cows. It is rich in phosphate, and makes an excellent manure.

Almost the hardness of the diamond is said to be given by German workmen to steel engraving tools are made white hot, plunged repeatedly into scaling wax until cold, and then just touch with oil of turpentine.

Hemp rope contracts if it is wet. A dry rope twenty-five feet long is shortened to twenty-four feet on being wet. And it should not be forgotten that a wet rope has only about one-third of the strength of a dry one, while if saturated with grease or soap it is weaker still.

Some forms of dyspepsia are caused by a deficiency of water in the system, as the drinking of too little water is much more injurious than the drinking of too much.

If you scatter some grain among straw or leaves and keep the hens at work scratching, they will lay better and keep in better health.

Soup should be served at least once or twice a week.

Heaven is never deaf but when man's heart is dumb.

A good conscience expects to be treated with perfect confidence.

Any feeling that takes a man away from his home is a traitor to the house hold.

Those who never change love their own ways better than the ways of truth.

Comparatively speaking, in man goodness is everything and greatness nothing.

There is but little bad luck in the world, but there is a great deal of bad management.

## Reverence.

The quality of reverence is an attribute of noble minds. It is the result of a perception of the great and worthy in another. If that other be a man, it enables us to render him the due of respect and honor. If the other be God, it brings us in lowly yet honorable adoration to His feet. The ability to perceive certain qualities in another is a sure mark of possessing those qualities yourself. This holds true as well of bad as of good qualities. None is so apt to detect deceit as the deceitful person, none so ready to acknowledge honor and truth as the honorable and truthful man. It is for this reason that truly great minds are such a mystery to the great mass of mankind. Incapable of his lofty thoughts and noble aspirations, the ordinary man sees in the truly great one an enemy which he can solve in no way but by attributing his success to luck or favoritism, and his course of conduct to well stimulated goodness put on for selfish purposes. To the pure all things are pure; hence, an honest man is most easily made the victim of fraud and sham. This clew will also assist us in solving what has puzzled so many—namely, the fact that many great men have fallen so completely under the influence of the base and designing.

Reverence is an elevating quality. Its possessor is unconsciously uplifted and ennobled by the perception and recognition of the greatness it admires and almost involuntarily imitates. Hence, to cultivate reverence is one sure means of becoming noble and lofty in mind and purpose. The feeling of reverence is honorable to its possessor. The measure of your respect for another is often the true measure of your own worthiness of it. Your readiness to believe in another's honor and purity proves the whiteness of your own soul. It is for this reason that the pure in heart, and they only, can see God.

Our people are not reverent. Go into our churches and mark the free and easy way in which our people act. In some cases the congregation can scarcely become properly subdued for devotion until half the service is over. In some churches whispered conversation, noisy entrances during prayer, men failing to remove their hats, and even professing Christians kneeling in prayer. One cannot but wonder how such people are ever to be spiritually reached and profited. Professor Stuckenburg, in the *Homiletic Review*, has this to say of our want of reverence:

Parents should carefully inculcate reverence in their children. Allow no flippancy on sacred subjects. Preachers should set their people the example of a sober and godly deportment in the house of God. And the wife who is habitually irreverent in the house of God need only read Ecclesiastes v. 1, to see what their position is in the sight of God. "Holy and reverent is His name." L. V. Y.

THE VALUE OF LYING IN BED.—For those who cannot get a sufficient holiday the best substitute is an occasional day in bed. Many whose nerves are constantly strained in their daily occupation have discovered this for themselves. A Spanish merchant in Barcelona told his medical man that he always went to bed for two or three days whenever he could be spared from his business, and he laughed at those who spend their holidays on toilsome mountains. One of the hardest worked women in England, who has for many years conducted a large wholesale business, retains excellent nerves at an advanced age, owing, it is believed, to her habit of taking one day a week in bed.

How prone we are to count our individual interests the chief interests involved in any issue of the hour. "When does the next train start?" hurriedly asks the incoming passenger of the train-starter at a central railway station, where trains are running in every direction at almost all hours of day and night. "Start for where?" coolly asks the train-starter, in quiet suggestion of the fact that trains go elsewhere from that station than to this passenger's destination. "Have I time to get a dish of ice-cream before this train starts?" is another passenger's question at the train-starter. "Which train do you mean?" "The ticket, please!" is another passenger's call at the ticket-office, window in the same station. There is a touch of sarcasm in the ticket clerk's responding question: "Ticket for where?" And so it is that the average man of woman imagines that the average man of woman is the public welfare in his or her welfare. Nor is it railroad officials only who have reason to get such an impression in their minds.

FOR PARENTS.—Among moderns, English women, as a rule, possess in youth and keep till age the finest complexions. Their climate is kind to keep them in perpetual bloom, as it does their wonderful roses. But besides their climate, their customs favor them. English girls are kept in the nursery or the school-room, free from the excitement of late hours, rich food, adult society, fashionable dress or habits, till their complexions are established and their physique developed. The simple food, daily bath, hours spent out-of-doors, on foot or on horseback, and uneventful life, giving them sound stomachs, hearty livers, and tranquil nerves, and the beautiful coloring is a matter of course.

It cannot be said too strongly that her health is the only safe renovator of the complexion. Cleanliness is the avowed secret of this generation have lost their freshness through carelessness or ignorance, or spite of climate, they can, at least, rear their daughters to preserve that inheritance of beauty to which most Americans are born.

The orchard of the church will not be more fruitful till the plants in the nursery are more cared for.

If cause be good, the most violent attacks of its enemies will not injure it so much as an injudicious defence of it by its friends.

None will have such a dreadful parting with the Lord at the last day as those who went half way with him and then left him.

Never expect a sense of justice in a man whom you know to be dishonest in anything.

Pity is a thing often avowed, seldom felt; hatred is a thing often felt, seldom avowed.

## What Others Say.

"Our Preacher is just the man we need. He will take in our town; there is so much dash and style about him." The preacher referred to was not St. Paul, neither was he John Wesley, but a man who is now preaching in the State of California, and who, we trust, does not lack qualities that are worth more than "dash and style." How many preachers are there who waste half their energies in trying to make an impression? The man who cares greatly whether the world regards him as wise or eloquent or up with the times is in danger of selling his Lord at even a lower price than did Judas. "How can ye believe who receive honor one of another, and seek not that honor that cometh from God only?" A thirst for the praise of men is not consistent with the faith of Christ. "Men will praise thee, then thou dost well for thyself." The selfish egotist is often the object of the world's praise, while he who, like his Master, goes about doing good is, like his Master, despised. In the last day he will probably appear the most honored who has labored most for Christ and Christ's Church.

PULPIT NOTICES.—It is quite time that some understanding was come to among pastors in regard to this subject. It is fast becoming a very onerous and embarrassing service, if not an evil and a positive nuisance. The pulpit in a multitude of our churches has become an "advertising medium" for all sorts of things. Pastors are burdened by their number and perplexed often by their character. Many of them are thrust into the officiating minister's hands after he has entered the desk. He has no chance to consult with any one or to consider the propriety of reading them. Some of these notices have no business there, and yet he fears he will be blamed if he refuses to announce them. It is no uncommon thing for a preacher to rise with a dozen and even twenty "notices" in his hand to give out. We have known ten minutes spent on them, and the congregation wearied and often disgusted by the tedious routine, and in a measure unfitted for the sacred spirit services of the sanctuary to follow.

We fear that the venerable custom of committing Psalms to memory is falling into disuse among the Psalm-singing churches. In the "good old times" it was required of all the children of four years old and upward to commit verses and whole Psalms and recite them to parents and Sabbath-school teachers. It was a good custom. The amount of precious Scripture truth laid up in store was a lifetime treasure. Sabbath afternoon was generally devoted to memorizing Psalms and the Shorter Catechism. Such a practice left a deep impression character. Are modern methods an improvement on the old? Will they make better men and women? We throw not.

The condition of Europe is summed up in the phrase, "An' arms, an' arms." This is the high-water mark of the civilization of the nineteenth century. Italians, Frenchmen, Germans, Austrians—amiable, well-meaning, neighborly beings, who live, believe, love, toil, kneel before the same altar, and yet all of them busy in the same fearful preparation for throat-cutting. An armed camp means war at any time—to-morrow, next year, surely someday, for war alone will dissolve the camps.

The parent who sends his son or daughter out into the world with a genuine love and appreciation of fine and noble literature has little cause to fear that vicious companionships will have power to draw them downward. They will gravitate to libraries and lecture-rooms, to churches and Sunday-schools, where they will be most likely to meet those of like tastes with themselves.

"Any man that can learn to preach can learn to visit from house to house; and if he neglects to do so, will find his preaching is comparatively fruitless. Pastoral work in connection with preaching is the road to ministerial success. Let those concerned keep this in mind and act accordingly."

Probably there is not the remotest corner or little inlet of the minute blood vessels of the body that does not feel some wavelet from hearty laughter, shaking the central man. The blood moves more lively—probably its chemical, electric, or vital condition is distinctly modified; it conveys a different impression to all the organs of the body as it visits them on this particular mystic journey when the man is laughing, from what it does at other times. And so, we doubt not, a good laugh may lengthen a man's life, conveying a distinct stimulus to the vital forces. And the time may come when physicians, attending more closely than at present, unfortunately, they are apt to do, to the immortality of the influences which the soul exerts upon its tenement of clay, shall prescribe to a torpid patient "so many peals of laughter, to be undergone at such and such a time," just as they now do that far more objectionable prescription, a pill, or an electric or galvanic shock; and shall study the best and most effective method of producing the required effect in each patient.

TWO WAYS OF PUTTING IT.—Speakers who wish to carry a point generally select their comparisons to suit their arguments: In the legislature of Ohio some years ago there was a debate on whether a certain road should be built, or at a certain other up the river.

"Who ever heard," said a down the river advocate, "of beginning anything at the top? Whoever heard of building a chimney from the top downward? Whoever saw a house begun at the top?"

Up jumped a Dutch member from an up the river county.

"Meester Brezident, de jentlemen say dat dees beezness es all vom boomboorg, peacise vee vants to peegen our railroad mit de top of de shate, and he make some sealy combarison about de houze and de chimney. I vello also kate de jentleman von question. Een hees bart ov de shate vey deyns to build von vell, do deyn deyns mit de bottom of de vell, or do deyn deyns mit de top ov de vell? Vili de jentlemen bleese answer me dat leetle von question?"

Do not wait till you be holy ere yot cast your confidence on the Saviour, but cast confidence on him now, and you shall be made holy.